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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JULY 12, 1948

Issued by the OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

The Government of Pakistan has announced the unrestricted exportation of cotton from July 15 to August 31, reportedly because of failure of India to take its allotment.

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The 1947-48 cotton crop in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, was officially estimated on June 10 at 152,000 metric tons (698,000 bales of 500 pounds gross). This is considerably less than the March and April estimates of 827,000 and 758,000 bales respectively. The downward revision in April was attributed to drought in some sectors. However, the latest revision is due to a feeling that earlier reports concerning high yields from a new variety, Campinas 817 (Stoneville) were over-optimistic as this variety represents only a small part of the crop. Sao Paulo acreage is estimated at 2,093,000 acres for 1947-48.

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An announcement in Egypt states that a delegation from India is expected to negotiate a barter arrangement for about 21,000 long tons (98,000 bales of 500 pounds) of Egyptian cotton. Negotiations by Soviet Union representatives for an additional 12,000 tons (56,000 bales) are reported to be still in progress. The U.S. and British Military Governments in Germany are reported to have purchased \$2 million worth of Egyptian cotton (quantity not reported) with payments made in U.S. dollars. The cotton is to be drawn from Government stocks. The 1948 crop is still privately estimated at about 1,500,000 bales (of 500 pounds).

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A French-Egyptian trade pact in the form of a clearing agreement was signed on June 9, 1948, stipulating the terms under which exchange of commodities will be made. The agreement provides for payment for goods in French francs and Egyptian pounds instead of in sterling, as was formerly the practice. The agreement runs for 1 year and is automatically renewable for periods of 1 year at a time.

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Weather during June improved prospects for good crops and pastures in Czechoslovakia. Although precipitation was lower than in May, gentle rains were well distributed over the month and somewhat heavier in Middle and Eastern Bohemia, Northern Moravia and in the highlands of Slovakia. Pastures and meadow lands were considerably improved. Some areas were classed as normal, and other areas as poor, particularly where rainfall was low. Feed grains are indicated as normal or slightly below normal.

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Notwithstanding the beginning of the rainy season and improved pastures in Cuba, the beef supply in Havana continues below normal. The situation is aggravated by refusal of cattlemen to ship cattle at ceiling prices, of slaughterhouses to slaughter animals and by slaughterhouse workers striking for higher wages.

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Switzerland reports rainfall in June as exceptional and favorable to pastures, but that haymaking was impeded in high altitudes.

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The Cuban Council of Ministers, at the suggestion of the Minister of Commerce, has agreed to extend until Sept. 30, 1948 duty-free entry privileges for cattle, beef, fresh eggs and poultry feeds, which otherwise would have expired on June 30.

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WORLD CHERRY CROP UP 1 PERCENT

The 1947 world crop of cherries is indicated to be 975,571 short tons, 1 percent above the 1946 crop of 961,993 and 3 percent below the 5-year (1935-39) average of 1,006,101 tons.

The United States was the world's largest producer in 1947 with a production of 173,140 tons, 25 percent below the 1946 crop of 229,620 tons and 16 percent above the prewar average of 149,094 tons. The sweet cherry crop, grown principally in Washington, Oregon, and California is estimated at 79,270 tons as compared with 112,370 tons the previous year. Sour cherries produced chiefly in Michigan, New York, and Wisconsin are estimated at 93,870 tons, 16 percent below the 1946 crop of 117,250 tons.

Canadian cherries grown only in the 2 provinces of Ontario and British Columbia are estimated at 7,775 tons, or 8 percent below the 8,425 tons produced in 1946 but 48 percent larger than the prewar average of 5,250 tons.

The European total of 760,985 tons in 1947 is 11 percent more than the 683,001 produced during 1946 but 6 percent below the 1935-39 average of 812,423 tons. German production indicated at 160,000 tons was the largest in Europe in 1947 and is just a little less than the prewar average but 20 percent larger than the 1946 crop of 133,000. Italy's crop of 115,600 tons is 14 percent more than was produced in 1946 and 42 percent above the prewar average of 81,400 tons. Of the 1947 crop in southern Italy about 5,500 tons were packed in brine. The Belgian crop of 33,000 tons is produced principally in the area around Saint Trond; during 1947 sales of cherries in this area were the largest on record. Production in France, where drought did not affect the crop, is estimated at 82,600 tons, compared with 74,800 in 1946 and the prewar of 55,800. Due to fruit fly damage, the cherry crop in Spain is estimated at 37,300 tons, 10 percent below the 1946 crop of 41,400 but 16 percent larger than the 1935-39 average of 32,100. In Switzerland the cherry crop was excellent and is estimated at 50,700 tons about 6,600 tons more than the 1946 crop and twice as large as the prewar average.

Asia's total of 25,147 tons is 27 percent below the 1946 crop of 34,515 and 17 percent below the prewar average of 30,362 tons. Turkey, estimated at 16,971 tons is 35 percent below the previous crop of 26,285; the small crop in 1947 was due to late spring freeze.

Cherry production in Argentina and Chile is estimated at nearly as much as in 1946 but 47 percent less than the 1935-39 average. Australia's crop of 5,700 tons, compared with 3,583 for the previous year and 3,953 for the prewar period. Victoria's crop in Australia was excellent and nearly double that of the previous season.

This is the first published estimate of world cherry production by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Only estimates for countries where production statistics are available are shown.

(Table on following pages)

1/

Cherries: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39,
annual 1940-47

Continent and country	Average : 1935-39 :	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :	Short : tons :
North America									
Canada	5,250:	4,300:	8,675:	9,100:	5,425:	7,125:	5,925:	8,425:	7,775:
United States	149,094:	172,820:	161,690:	196,520:	116,210:	195,510:	149,020:	229,620:	173,140:
Total	154,344:	177,120:	170,365:	205,620:	121,635:	202,635:	154,945:	238,045:	180,915:
Europe									
Austria	17,624:	19,180:	13,338:	15,983:	22,707:	26,340:	22,126:	18,957:	22,748:
Belgium	22,426:	18,205:	13,792:	16,617:	18,463:	20,514:	20,721:	30,030:	33,000:
Czechoslovakia	57,776:	33,704:	31,321:	34,472:	21,277:	24,609:	20,787:	58,217:	70,012:
Denmark	810:	732:	684:	503:	441:	497:	514:	925:	768:
France	55,784:	45,612:	34,681:	41,593:	46,366:	51,549:	51,740:	74,784:	82,625:
Germany	163,240:	158,401:	111,663:	158,511:	159,062:	184,512:	154,990:	133,291:	159,949:
Hungary	12,000:	9,375:	8,681:	10,335:	10,655:	12,390:	10,500:	9,000:	12,897:
Italy	81,364:	84,767:	79,917:	81,570:	84,976:	86,106:	105,059:	101,412:	115,656:
Luxembourg	340:	551:	419:	503:	558:	619:	619:	898:	988:
Netherlands	5,185:	1,897:	1,442:	1,730:	1,920:	2,150:	2,150:	3,118:	3,430:
Norway	5,849:	5,291:	4,960:	3,638:	3,197:	3,898:	3,093:	5,564:	4,630:
Poland	57,523:	55,797:	39,058:	55,462:	55,462:	64,336:	54,042:	46,476:	55,771:
Rumania	213,584:	114,254:	106,256:	127,507:	72,679:	84,308:	44,092:	28,660:	12,637:
Spain	32,102:	36,154:	30,386:	38,464:	38,055:	40,383:	41,400:	41,400:	37,300:
Sweden	10,435:	19,435:	8,818:	4,409:	7,716:	7,716:	4,409:	4,409:	4,409:
Switzerland	25,243:	28,660:	22,046:	40,785:	36,376:	26,565:	16,534:	44,092:	50,705:
United Kingdom	12,667:	18,144:	6,608:	31,024:	26,768:	19,040:	19,600:	26,768:	33,460:
Yugoslavia	38,471:	69,090:	65,000:	65,000:	65,000:	65,000:	59,754:	55,000:	60,000:
Total	812,423:	719,159:	579,070:	728,106:	671,678:	720,532:	632,130:	683,001:	760,985:

1/
Cherries: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39,
annual 1940-47

Continent and country	Average : 1935-39 :	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons
Asia									
Lebanon	2/	2/	2/	277:	676:	295:	324:	331:	386
Syria	3/ 146:3/	635:3/	686:	912:	4,497:	1,964:	2,163:	2,199:	2,590
Turkey	24,720:	22,367:	15,618:	19,825:	23,103:	24,900:	22,889:	26,285:	16,971
Japan	5,496:	5,750:	5,122:	5,600:	5,200:	5,750:	5,300:	5,700:	5,200
Total	30,362:	28,752:	21,426:	26,614:	33,476:	32,909:	30,676:	34,515:	25,147
South America									
Argentina	4/ 3,748:	1,433:	5,622:	8,407:	4,519:	2,094:	1,102:	2,039:	1,962
Chile	4/ 992:	74:	295:	441:	606:	606:	315:	583:	560
Total	4/ 4,740:	1,507:	5,917:	8,848:	5,125:	2,700:	1,417:	2,622:	2,522
Oceania									
Australia	3,953:	4,105:	4,426:	4,532:	6,363:	5,104:	4,698:	3,583:	5,700
New Zealand	279:	360:	389:	397:	556:	252:	273:	227:	302
Total	4,232:	4,465:	4,815:	4,929:	6,919:	5,356:	4,971:	3,810:	6,002
World total	1,006,001:	931,003:	781,593:	974,117:	838,833:	964,132:	824,139:	961,993:	975,571

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to prewar boundaries.

1/ Production is from bloom of year shown and includes cherries produced for fresh consumption and processing.
2/ Included with Syria. 3/ Includes Lebanon. 4/ One year.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

INDIA CASHEW NUT CROP 9
PERCENT ABOVE AVERAGE

The Indian cashew nut crop is estimated at 50,400 short tons (raw nut basis) in 1948 compared with 26,900 tons in 1947, 58,800 tons in 1946 and the 5-year (1943-47) average of 46,200 tons. The current season started with good prospects of a bumper crop but the secondary blossoms in the South India area were damaged by untimely drought followed by heavy rains. Favorable weather resulted in a good crop in the Bombay area.

There were practically no raw nuts carried over at the beginning of the new harvest season (February 1948) and some shelling plants had closed. There were, however, about 20,000 cases of shelled cashews in stock ready for shipment.

INDIA: Cashew nuts, Estimated production,
average 1943-47, annual 1943-48

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	UNSHELLED		
	Bombay district	South India	Total
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
<u>Average</u> 1943-47	11,800	34,400	46,200
<u>Annual</u>			
1943	6,700	33,600	40,300
1944	12,600	37,800	50,400
1945	12,600	42,000	54,600
1946	16,800	42,000	58,800
1947	10,100	16,800	26,900
1948 <u>a/</u>	12,600	37,800	50,400

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, and other information.

a/ Preliminary.

African raw cashews imported into India for shelling continue to require an import license but it is generally considered that this requirement does not interfere with the volume imported. Reports indicate that the 1947 crop in Mozambique, the principal African supplying area, was disappointing. The crops in the Port Amelia and Lourenco Marques areas were about normal. During the first quarter of 1948 imports from Africa into South India totaled 11,389 short tons compared with 2,933 tons in the corresponding period of 1947. It is anticipated that about 33,600 short tons will be imported into all India for processing during 1948.

Exports of cashew nut kernels from India during the first quarter of 1948 totaled 3,585 short tons of which about one-half were destined to the United States and the other half to the United Kingdom.

UNITED STATES: Imports of cashew nuts,
1946-47 with comparisons

Year a/	SHELLED			
	Brazil	India	Others	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Averages</u>				
1935-39	21	12,717	38	12,776
1942-46	214	9,062	251	9,527
1937-46	120	11,784	149	12,053
<u>Annual</u>				
1935-36	47	10,469	67	10,583
1936-37	51	12,751	59	12,861
1937-38	7	13,028	23	13,058
1938-39	0	14,648	27	14,675
1939-40	0	12,689	13	12,702
1940-41	102	16,551	44	16,697
1941-42	24	15,618	132	15,774
1942-43	0	4,384	65	4,449
1943-44	0	3,356	309	3,665
1944-45	366	8,874	183	9,423
1945-46	389	14,191	281	14,861
1946-47	314	14,504	416	15,234
1947-48 b/	362	10,947	351	11,660

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

a/ Crop year, July-June b/ 10 months, July 1947-April 1948

1948 BRAZIL NUT
PRODUCTION DOWN

The production of Brazil nuts in the Amazon Basin is estimated at

16,600 short tons (revised) in 1948 compared with 30,400 tons in 1947, the 5-year (1942-46) average of 11,500 tons and the 10-year (1937-46) average of 25,100 tons. The small crop this season is attributed partly to unfavorable weather and partly to market uncertainty. Nut gatherers were discouraged by the level of advance price offers made by the trade and refused to go deep into the jungles to increase the tonnage.

BRAZIL NUTS: Estimated commercial production in
specified countries, 1948 with comparisons
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)
Unshelled basis

Year	Brazil	Bolivia	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Averages</u>			
1942-46	11,100	400	11,500
1937-46	22,500	2,600	25,100
<u>Annual</u>			
1936	40,100	2,900	43,000
1937	25,900	3,100	29,000
1938	41,500	5,300	46,800
1939	40,800	4,600	45,400
1940	44,200	3,400	47,600
1941	17,000	7,700	24,700
1942	14,500	1,700	16,200
1943	3,600	0	3,600
1944	3,300	0	3,300
1945	6,800	100	6,900
1946	27,500	0	27,500
1947	30,300	100	30,400
1948 <u>a/</u> <u>b/</u>	16,500	100	16,600

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, and other information.

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

In 1947 a total of 17,057 short tons of unshelled nuts were exported compared with 13,843 tons in 1946; also 6,041 tons of shelled nuts were exported in 1947 compared with 3,763 tons in 1946.

Now that the smaller output is indicated, the market situation in Belem and Manaus has improved; also contributing to the improvement was the signing of a commercial agreement by Brazil and the United Kingdom providing for the purchase by the United Kingdom of about 1,650 tons of unshelled Brazil nuts at about 12 cents per pound.

UNITED STATES: Imports of Brazil nuts,
1946-47 with comparisons

Year a/	Shelled			Unshelled		
	Brazil	Other countries	Total	Brazil	Other countries	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average						
1937-38/1946-47	3,387	88	3,475	6,883	5	6,888
1942-43/1946-47	1,735	5	1,740	3,728	7	3,735
Annual						
1937-38	3,130	129	3,259	6,348	0	6,348
1938-39	4,291	176	4,467	10,277	15	10,292
1939-40	4,886	18	4,904	11,424	0	11,424
1940-41	7,871	217	8,088	13,327	0	13,327
1941-42	5,016	316	5,332	8,812	0	8,812
1942-43	2,180	11	2,191	4,525	35	4,560
1943-44	0	0	0	0	0	0
1944-45	0	0	0	b/	0	b/
1945-46	3,054	1	3,055	2,142	0	2,142
1946-47	3,439	12	3,451	11,975	0	11,975
1947-48 c/	2,704	0	2,704	12,197	0	12,197

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

a/ Crop year July/June. b/ Less than one-half ton. c/ 10 months, July 1947-April 1948.

(Continued on Page 25)

TOBACCOHUNGARY'S 1948 TOBACCO PRODUCTION
MAY EXCEED PREWAR; EXPORTS LOW

The Hungarian Government's plan for tobacco production in 1948 calls for an area about 25 percent above the prewar, 1935-39, average according to a report recently received from the American Legation in Budapest. If the full acreage is planted and the yield per acre is near average a crop of about 48,000,000 pounds would result, as compared with the 1947 production of only 37,529,000 pounds and the prewar average of 45,895,000 pounds. Plantings by May 20 were substantially larger than at the same date a year ago and early spring growing conditions were generally favorable.

As a result of short crops, exports of leaf from Hungary since the war have been low. Exports in 1947 totaled only 677,000 pounds, as compared with the 1935-39 average of 19,162,000 pounds, most of which was sent to Germany, France, Belgium, and other European countries. A 1948 crop at the level planned should enable increased exports. A substantial part of the production, however, might be needed for stock replacement, which would restrict exports in 1948 to something less than the prewar level.

Imports of leaf into Hungary have been greatly curtailed. Imports in 1947 totaled only 851,000 pounds, as compared with 829,000 in 1946, and the prewar 1935-39 average of 3,104,000 pounds. Most of the prewar imports were Oriental type tobacco from Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria. Since the war, less than half of the country's limited imports have come from these sources.

PORTUGAL'S TOBACCO INDUSTRY
BASED ON AMERICAN LEAF

Portugal's tobacco consumption, which has increased about 60 percent in the recent years, is largely of leaf imported from the United States. The country has no commercial production of leaf and imports from sources other than the United States account for only 15 percent of the total and are largely from Angola, a Portuguese West African Colony. Imports from other sources are limited to small quantities of cigar type leaf from South America and the Netherlands East Indies according to information recently received from the American Embassy at Lisbon.

During the prewar years 1935-39, the consumption of tobacco products in Portugal averaged about 6,000,000 pounds annually, of which 35 percent was in the form of cigarettes, 63 percent in smoking tobacco, and 2 percent other products. It is estimated that current consumption is at the rate of nearly 10,000,000 pounds annually, of which about 50 percent is cigarettes, 50 percent smoking tobacco, and less than one percent other products. The increase in consumption of cigarettes, which are now made largely from United States leaf, and the increase in use of United States tobacco in smoking mixtures has resulted in larger imports from this country. In 1947, about 86 percent of the country's 9,275,000 pound leaf import was from the United States. During the five years, 1935-39, imports averaged 6,381,000 pounds, of which about 74 percent was from the United States. Changes in products consumed have brought changes in types of

leaf imported from the United States. Smaller proportions of dark tobaccos are being used in both cigarettes and pipe tobacco and, as a result, the country's imports of American flue-cured and Burley tobacco have increased sharply, but imports of American fire-cured and other dark types have declined.

It is expected that the annual consumption of tobacco products in Portugal during the next few years may not greatly exceed the current rate. Purchasing power, which has remained at a high level since the war period, has leveled off. This will tend to prevent further expansion and increased consumption might also be checked by unwillingness on the part of manufacturers to expand production facilities. The production of tobacco products in Portugal is by two manufacturers operating under Government franchises which expire in 1957. At that time, according to the terms of the franchise, the factories and equipment must be turned over to the government without compensation.

TUNISIA INCREASED TOBACCO IMPORTS

Imports in 1947 of leaf tobacco into Tunisia, which normally depends on shipments from abroad for about three-fourths of its tobacco requirements, were substantially above the prewar level according to information recently received from the American Consulate General at Tunis.

Leaf imports in 1947 totaled 5,114,000 pounds as compared with 4,457,000 in 1946 and the prewar, 1935-38, average of 3,529,000 pounds. Imports from the United States accounted for about 30 percent of the total, both for 1947 and in prewar years.

Information regarding Tunisia's tobacco production in recent years is not available, but recent reports indicate that the 1948 crop may materially exceed the prewar, 1935-38, average of 1,243,000 pounds. An authorized acreage of 2,298 acres for tobacco has been granted by the Tunisian Tobacco Monopoly for 1948, as compared with the average acreage planted in the four prewar years of 990 acres.

UNITED KINGDOM PLANS TO CONTINUE RESTRICT TOBACCO IMPORTS

As a result of shortage in dollar exchange, the United Kingdom plans to continue restrictions on the importation of United States leaf. In commenting on the subject in a debate in the House of Parliament on June 17, 1948, the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, M.P., President of the United Kingdom Board of Trade, made the following statement:

"The amount of tobacco leaf which we can expect to get from the United States this year is still uncertain, but it must in any circumstances be small compared with normal requirements. We expect larger supplies from Southern Rhodesia than ever before, and there should be small increases from other non-dollar sources. But, even on the most favorable assumptions, these sources of supply cannot at present or in the immediate future make up for the reduction in supplies from the United States.

"In the circumstances, we must expect the supplies of tobacco goods in the shops to continue to be severely limited. These supplies are already falling below demand and there have been queues and complaints of

shortages. Nevertheless, even these limited supplies are greater than before the war. The shortage is general, and there is every prospect that it will continue for a long time ahead. The fact is that as a nation we are trying to smoke more than we can afford."

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

CEYLON'S TEA PRODUCTION TO EQUAL 1947

Although no quantitative estimate is available of Ceylon's 1948 tea production, it appears it will be approximately equal to the previous year according to a report from the American Consulate General in Colombo. The total production of tea in 1947 was placed at 298,526,000 pounds, the largest on record. The 1946 production was 280,411,000 pounds and the prewar (1935-39) annual average was 231,505,000 pounds.

In connection with the substantial increase in production in comparison with prewar, it is interesting to note that the area in tea in 1947 was less than in 1939. According to the annual reports of the Ceylon Tea Controller, 552,853 acres were in tea on March 1, 1947, compared to 555,452 acres on March 1, 1939. Apparently under the stimulus of high prices, better care is given tea plantings with the result that yields are higher.

Some reduction in 1948 yields may occur from blister blight disease, caused by the fungus Exobasidium vexans Masse. The disease appeared for the first time in Ceylon in the fall of 1946. So far it has only attacked tea plantations at higher elevations. It is difficult to forecast the probable loss in yield, as weather conditions are an important factor in its incidence. The fungus thrives during prolonged periods of wet weather but does negligible damage during periods of sunshine and relatively high temperatures.

During 1947, Ceylon exported 287,259,020 pounds of black tea. The principal destinations were the United Kingdom with 107,363,000 pounds, Australia 32,447,000, Egypt 26,198,000, Canada 24,479,000, and the United States 20,922,000 pounds. No green tea was exported and none was produced during the year. Most of the tea is grown for the export market, as domestic consumption is relatively small, being estimated at only 14,000,000 pounds in 1947. During the war and for some months thereafter larger quantities were consumed owing to the presence of military forces. Consumption is expected to continue below the 1946 disappearance of 18,354,000 pounds, but above the prewar average of about 10,300,000 pounds annually.

Most of Ceylon's tea, with the exception of that sold on contract to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food, is sold at auction in Colombo. During 1947 the Colombo auctions handled 164,304,000 pounds of tea and 94,500,000 pounds were bought under contract by the Ministry of Food. Under the 1948 tea contract, the Ministry of Food will buy 97,000,000 pounds. The bulk of the tea is exported from Colombo, and the remainder from Galle.

The following charges are levied against each 100 pounds of tea exported from Ceylon:

Charges	Rupees	Approximate U. S. \$ equivalent
Export duty	38.00	11.46
Medical aid dues	0.15	0.05
Research levy	0.14	0.04
Control levy	0.05	0.02
Propaganda Board levy	0.60	0.18
Total	38.94	11.75

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

(Continued from Page 21)

ORANGE PRODUCTION HIGHER IN BRAZIL

Production of oranges (including tangerines) in Brazil estimated at 31.6 million boxes for 1948 is 5 percent more than the 1947 crop of 30.1 million and 8 percent less than the 5-year (1935-39) average of 34.5 million boxes. The citrus industry in Brazil is gradually recovering from the effects of "tristeza", the disease which destroyed a large proportion of the bearing trees in the areas of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

The crop for 1948 in Rio de Janeiro is estimated at 9.4 million boxes about 25 percent greater than the 1947 crop of 7.6 million. In Sao Paulo, current production estimated at 5.6 million boxes is about 5 percent lower than the 1947 crop of 5.9 million. Other areas in Brazil will probably produce 16.6 million boxes, the same as last season. Exports during 1948 may reach 2.5 million boxes, 47 percent above the 1947 exports of 1.7 million and nearly equal the 1946 exports of 2.8 million. Argentina was the chief buyer, taking 1,080,403 boxes. Eire was next largest buying 249,268, Belgium 198,379, United Kingdom 133,996, Sweden 27,969, Chile 6,000 and Java and Bermuda each 3,500.

FRUIT CROP LOWER IN FRANCE

Fruit production in France in 1948 probably will be much smaller than in 1947 because of effects of February freezes and insect attacks. The apple crop estimated to be average has suffered considerable damage by the apple curcubio (anthonomus). Frost damage to apricot trees was serious and the 1948 crop is now estimated at 13,000 tons compared with 48,500 tons last year. Plums and prunes are estimated at 116,500 tons, compared with 143,700 last year. Of this amount the prune crop for drying is indicated to be 11,900 tons, 21 percent below the 1947 crop of 15,000.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTSWORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS,
FIRST QUARTER 1948

In the first quarter of 1948, production of manufactured dairy products generally dropped below the level of a year ago. The first quarter output of butter, cheese, and canned milk for countries recorded averaged about 10 percent below that of a year previous. For dried milk the drop was only about 5 percent. The sharpest decline in output of dairy products for the quarter occurred in the United States, but there was also a sizable drop in Canada, Denmark, France and New Zealand.

Canada's total milk supply was below last year's because of fewer milk cows and a slightly lower output per cow. A less favorable feed situation and higher returns from competing enterprises were largely responsible for the downturn. In the United States, milk production on farms was somewhat below that of the first quarter of last year, while milk and cream consumption remained at about the same level. Cuba experienced an island-wide drought in February and March which handicapped the dairy industry. The shortage of milk was particularly severe in eastern Cuba, where most of the dairy plants are located. In France, the commercialized production of dairy products, with the exception of powdered milk, was smaller in this quarter than in the corresponding quarter of 1947 as a result of reduced feed supplies from the poor harvests of the previous year. Conditions in Switzerland showed a marked improvement, particularly after January. Sufficient amounts of feeds and concentrates combined with favorable weather resulted in a substantial increase in the milk yield. Flush milk production in the United Kingdom came slightly earlier this year than last and larger quantities of milk were available for dairy products even after fluid rations had been liberalized. In Argentina, the milk flow remained normal due to the ample rainfall and the excellent condition of the pastures. Production was up in the Union of South Africa over a year ago, due principally to the improvement in pasture and feed conditions. Increase in the price of industrial milk and decrease in the price of fluid milk also had some effect.

Butter production in the first quarter of the current year declined below the levels of the corresponding quarter of last year, although increases were registered in some of the more important butter-producing countries. In Australia, where production was at a high level in January and February, production for the entire quarter increased 18 percent. The greatest improvement in output occurred in the Union of South Africa, where production conditions were better than they have been for some time. In Eire, larger supplies were available to creameries and the output ran well ahead of the same period a year ago. The only other major producing country in which an increase took place was Argentina, production there being 5 percent over the corresponding quarter of 1947. In the United States, butter production showed the greatest decline of any dairy product, reflecting both a lower milk output in this period and a continuing demand for milk for fluid consumption. Canadian production in the first quarter of 1948 dropped to 92 percent of last year and was the lowest for the quarter since before the war. Declines in butter output also were noted in several continental countries, where conditions for production were unfavorable.

Cheese production in the first quarter of the current year showed the greatest decline of any dairy product. Nevertheless, several important cheese-producing countries reported an increase in production in this period. Switzerland led these with an output 47 percent above the corresponding quarter of 1947. Production also rose in the United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia and the Union of South Africa. The output of other major-producing countries fell behind in the January-March quarter. Of these, Canada showed the greatest decline, with output one-third below a year ago, the lowest for this quarter since 1941. Production in the United States in this period was 16 percent below the same period of 1947. Other countries reporting decreases in output were Denmark and France with a lower production also indicated in New Zealand.

Canned milk production in the quarter under review showed a sharp drop below the same quarter a year ago. Increases occurred in the United Kingdom, Argentina and Australia, but were offset by decreases in other countries, particularly in the heaviest producing country, the United States, where production in this quarter was down 12 percent. Output in Canada, Cuba and France also declined below the levels of a year ago.

Dried milk production generally showed the smallest decline of any dairy product. Marked improvement in output was noted in the United Kingdom, France, Argentina and Australia, but in the only other countries for which figures are available, the United States and Canada, production dropped sharply, being 83 percent and 82 percent, respectively, of 1947 production.

Current conditions abroad: Havana - The rainy season is now well advanced in Cuba and supplies of milk are increasingly markedly.

Paris - Milk production in France in the second quarter is expected to be larger than in the same period of 1947. The winter was mild, the months of April and May were moist, and the heavy spring flow started in late April, about two weeks earlier than in 1947.

Bern - Milk production in Switzerland is now well ahead of last year.

London - As of May 16, milk production in the United Kingdom had risen to such a level that fluid-milk allocations to non-priority consumers were removed from control for a period of three weeks. This is the first unrestricted sale of fluid milk since rationing was introduced in 1941.

The Hague - Pastures in the Netherlands are in excellent conditions. Current milk production is considerably above last year.

Copenhagen - Spring came early in Denmark. Pastures are green and there has been some allocation of oil-cake. Although milk cow numbers are lower, milk production in May surpassed that of the corresponding month of 1947 by 5 percent.

Buenos Aires - Milk production in Argentina held up well until mid-May when a sharp change in temperatures over the greater part of the country caused a marked decline.

Sydney - As a result of rains, in many of the principal dairying districts of Australia, the seasonal outlook is very good. Production

(Text continued on Page 30; table follows)

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries, first quarter (calendar) 1948, with comparisons

Country and product	Average 1934-38	Total 1947	1947				1948				First quarter 1948/47
			1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Butter a/											
Canada	248,119	290,841	30,744	95,236	112,493	52,368	28,410				92
United States	1,673,328	1,328,723	b/	b/	366,650	235,600	246,165				81
Belgium	46,179	54,937	c/	18,007	16,114	10,498					-
Denmark	400,660	276,631	b/	82,232	72,531	58,422	53,572				84
Eire	89,400	57,962	b/	16,388	26,480	13,289	2,410				134
France	444,888	187,195	b/	61,444	56,720	33,618	30,207				85
Germany	792,000										-
Netherlands	201,000	115,642	b/	39,630	39,851	22,021					-
Norway	24,930	17,558	b/	6,463	5,106	3,028					-
Sweden	151,309	209,340		60,138	59,398	41,920					-
Switzerland	62,170	32,628		8,887	9,326	7,638					-
United Kingdom	44,200	15,412		6,586	5,152	1,837					-
Argentina	65,742	112,700		25,957	19,119	33,457	1,792				88
Union of South Africa	27,725	37,642		8,268	6,674	11,389	35,912				98
Australia g/	437,032	340,157		62,422	65,999	123,746	17,054				105
New Zealand - total g/	366,049			36,557	54,878		104,263				150
Export gradings	314,753	304,013		29,324	43,893	137,453	91,562				118
Cheese i/											-
Canada	114,699	119,703		42,233	56,396	15,525	3,697				67
United States	643,234	1,206,501	b/	411,849	339,235	204,505	210,385				84
Denmark	68,820	126,322		41,888	39,202	20,943	16,755				71
France	363,098	244,623	b/	86,824	72,796	41,140	36,596				83
Italy j/	523,518										-
Netherlands k/	266,549	140,797	b/	54,385	49,200	27,064					-
Norway	39,067	24,259	b/	10,421	7,520	2,701					-
Sweden	71,269	105,137		35,331	29,080	17,362					-
Switzerland	111,729	85,979		26,235	31,415	19,960	12,326				147
United Kingdom l/	109,000	36,916		9,677	19,802	2,912	5,690				126
Argentina	67,873	193,211		42,708	37,123	60,236	58,167				109
Union of South Africa	10,195	17,619		3,679	3,690	5,534	5,988				127
Australia	49,111	96,235		16,462	21,614	37,511	21,721				105
New Zealand-total	201,272			22,847	27,306						-
Export gradings	194,175	195,422		28,866	14,796	83,030	64,531				94

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries,
first quarter (calendar) 1948, with comparisons
(Continued)

Country and product	Average 1934-38	Total 1947	1947				1948 1st quarter	First quarter 1948/1947
			1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter		
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	Percent
<u>Canned milk</u>								
Canada 1/	92,377	249,311	37,368	83,782	81,777	46,384	34,945	94
United States 1/	2,469,535	4,470,635	952,120	1,628,730	1,164,065	725,720	840,425	88
Cuba	32,564	31,362	4,395	7,033	11,963	7,971	4,338	99
Denmark	40,785		6,664					
France	28,953	45,106	7,367	17,322	14,495	5,922	4,304	58
Netherlands	304,896	79,562	7,758	24,986	29,455	17,363		
Switzerland	14,198	15,319	1,772	5,756	4,951	2,840		
United Kingdom	378,560	131,174	13,888	71,680	30,284	15,322	24,909	179
Argentina		12,642	3,146	1,873	3,013	4,610	4,171	133
Australia	38,867	124,171	25,032	19,089	28,023	52,027	36,336	145
New Zealand	11,273							
<u>Dried milk 2/</u>								
Canada	23,488	69,911	9,531	23,976	24,542	11,862	7,773	82
United States	203,555	838,250	199,330	304,450	215,345	119,125	166,440	
Belgium	5,500	5,509						
Denmark	2,205		2,742					
France	7,685	2,618	477	701	736	704	864	181
Netherlands	56,438	34,791	4	14,101	16,126	4,560		
Switzerland	2,381	5,693	1,015	1,995	1,476	1,207		
United Kingdom	33,600	55,372	3,136	22,310	16,845	13,081	22,669	723
Argentina		17,293	4,883	3,202	3,357	5,851	5,858	120
Australia	16,971	63,465	14,077	11,369	13,646	24,373	17,048	121
New Zealand	17,429							

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Prepared from official statistics, United States Foreign Service reports, and other information.

a/ Creamery butter. b/ Revised. c/ These figures represent controlled production of butter. d/ Total production. e/ Less than a 5-year average.

f/ Production year beginning July 1. g/ Production year beginning April 1. h/ Marketing year beginning August 1. i/ Factory cheese. j/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. k/ Includes farm cheese. l/ Both bulk and case goods. m/ For 1937 only.

n/ Canned and dried milk reported at 65,806,000 pounds for 1947. o/ Total dried-whole and dried-skim milk for human consumption. p/ Quantity small.

q/ Includes infant's food, health beverages, etc. r/ Production of dried-whole and dried-skim milk was 44,256,000 lbs. in 1947. s/ For 1938 only.

is still showing the usual seasonal decline at this time of year in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, but is now beginning to increase in South Australia and Western Australia. The good condition of cattle as they entered the winter season, together with adequate feed supplies, give promise of a favorable output of dairy products in the season just ahead.

Prepared by Floyd E. Davis and Regina M. Murray, based largely upon reports from U. S. Foreign Service Officers.

DANISH BRED SOW NUMBERS SHOW SEASONAL RISE

Bred sow numbers in Denmark, according to June 12, 1948 census, are now almost at last year's (June) level, although sow numbers are about 15 percent below a year earlier. The usual seasonal rise in numbers of bred sows has been possible through a higher breeding ration. Suckling pigs, pigs and slaughter hogs are about 34 and 24 percent, respectively, below a year ago and total numbers of hogs continue to be about 26 percent below June of 1947.

With bred sow numbers at the present time near last year's level, this would indicate a check in the downward trend in hog numbers in Denmark.

Denmark: Hog numbers a/ (entire country including parishes and boroughs) June 12, 1948, with comparisons.

Date	Sows		Suckling:Pigs and :		
	Bred	Total	pigs	slaughter:	Total b/
	: head	: head	: head	: head	: head
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: head	: head	: head	: head	: head
March 22, 1947	: 137	: 209	: 411	: 1,150	: 1,779
May 3, 1947	: 145	: 220	: 433	: 1,089	: 1,751
June 7, 1947	: 139	: 219	: 455	: 1,108	: 1,791
March 20, 1948	: 111	: 152	: 244	: 985	: 1,388
May 1, 1948	: 126	: 171	: 258	: 880	: 1,317
June 12, 1948	: 138	: 187	: 298	: 841	: 1,334

a/ Periodic Danish hog censuses beginning February 8, 1947, represent returns for the whole country. Data for the previous years excluded returns for parishes and boroughs. b/ Inclusive of boars.

Compiled from official sources. (For comparative data, see Foreign Crops and Markets of April 19, 1948 and May 24, 1948.)

THE CURRENT CATTLE AND BEEF SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

Heavy rains in the general cattle feeding area of Argentina fell during the first half of May. As a result, grazing continues very favorable and the majority of the pastures are in excellent condition to carry the stock through the winter. Rye and other winter forage are reported to be progressing well. During this time of the year cattle producers usually transfer their stock from alfalfa to rye, barley and oats.

Cattle entries for May at the Liniers Market and purchases on the estancias were 76,499 head less than the preceding month of April and 48,172 head below May 1947. Cattle offerings at the Liniers Market during May were down about 18 percent as compared with the total receipts for April. The price of cows was up 8 percent and steers 2 percent above the quotations for April. Steers of the export type were bringing 55 centavos per live kilo (7.4 cents per pound), or roughly 2 centavos per live kilo (0.3 cents per pound) more than last month (April). The increasing preference for medium and light heavy-weight steers for domestic consumption is making inroads on the lots which otherwise would be finished for export and is gradually forcing up prices.

Cattle exports to Chile are continuing at an increasing rate. A total of 22,784 head of steers were exported to Chile in the month of April. Currently, there are no quota limitations on exports of Argentine cattle to Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

FATS AND OILS

SWEDEN ANTICIPATES RECORD OILSEED HARVEST

Sweden anticipates a record oilseed harvest from a record acreage during 1948. Acreage expansion was due principally to increased prices for the 1948 oilseed crops. Fall-seeded rape and edible oil-producing crops planted in the spring amount to approximately 141,800 acres after deduction for winter losses in the fall-seeded crops. In addition over 48,600 acres of flaxseed have been planted, making a total of 190,400 acres. The entire harvested acreage in 1947 was 104,000, of which 65,200 acres were edible oil-producing crops and 38,800 flaxseed. The winter loss during 1947 was unusually large, amounting to over 17,000 acres. The importance of oil crops this year is indicated by the fact that the present acreage is about 50 percent larger than the acreage normally devoted to sugar beets.

Assuming normal yields and an abandonment of not more than 5 percent of the total acreage, estimates place the output of edible oil-producing seeds at 78,200 short tons and of flaxseed at 24,800 tons or a total of 103,000 tons. From this, approximately 25,400 tons of edible oil and 7,900 tons of linseed oil could be derived. Should the expected output materialize, oilseed production in 1948, excluding flaxseed, would represent an increase of almost 130 percent over that of 1947 and for flaxseed an increase of 37 percent.

Because of less attacks by parasites and because of suitable growing conditions in central Sweden, oil-crop production has gradually moved northward. In 1942 only 13 percent of the oilseed acreage was located in central Sweden compared with 48 percent in 1947. In spite of dry weather in 1947 the yields of spring-seeded oil-crops were slightly above normal. Yields of fall-seeded crops, on the other hand, were considerably below normal.

Imports of vegetable oils in 1947 amounted to 21,000 tons compared with 11,000 in 1946. Oilseed imports, principally copra, came to 33,000 tons against 22,000 in 1946. No oilseeds and only an insignificant quantity of vegetable oils were exported.

Government support prices to producers for oilseeds of normal quality and with a moisture content of 18 percent are: fall and spring rapeseed, 90 ore per kilogram (\$227 per short ton); white mustard, 78 (\$197); poppy seed, 90 (\$227), and flaxseed, 85 (\$215). These prices represent increases ranging from 4 to 20 percent over those of a year ago.

Sweden: Acreage and production of oilseeds, 1948
with comparison

Oilseed	Acreage		Production	
	1947 a/	1948 b/	1947	1948
	Acres	Acres	Short tons	Short tons
Fall rape.....	7,687	39,521	3,197	26,213
Spring rape.....	24,157	58,704	13,779	29,762
White mustard.....	33,191	43,517	17,218	22,266
Poppy.....	185	37	4	6
Total for food.....	65,220	141,779	34,198	78,247
Flaxseed.....	38,851	48,661	18,077	24,802
Total oil crops.....	104,071	190,440	52,275	103,049

American Legation, Stockholm.

a/ After winter losses but before deduction for any losses during the growing season. b/ Harvested acreage.

ITALIAN OILSEED PLANTINGS
REDUCED BY PRICE DROP

Italian oilseed acreage dropped from an all-time high of over 136,000 acres in 1947 to approximately 85,000 acres (total rapeseed plantings are not yet available) in 1948. Farmers over-expanded their plantings last year, and because of a coincident harvest of one of the largest olive crops in recent years, prices dropped far below producer expectations (oil prices declined almost 50 percent from August 1947 to January 1948). Other factors affecting the fall in oil prices were dis-hoarding measures and credit restrictions adapted by the Government and the general improvement in world availabilities. The general price drop was reflected in plantings for the 1948 harvest.

Because of greatly increased domestic production and lack of world supplies, oilseed imports during 1947 amounted to only a fraction of 1938; only castor-beans approached 1938 import levels with 72 percent of prewar. Imports of all other oilseeds ranged from 1 to 15 percent of prewar.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

RAINS NEEDED FOR
CANADA'S GRAIN CROPS

Canadian grain crop prospects are generally fair to good in Manitoba, eastern and southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta, according to the latest official information. Over large areas of Saskatchewan and in central and northern Alberta, however, conditions are considered critical because of the lack of moisture.

Recent rains over the greater part of Manitoba relieved the moisture shortage and improved crop prospects materially. Wheat there was beginning to head early in July.

Deterioration in Saskatchewan was reported to be general over the Province, except in eastern and southwestern districts where the condition has been fairly well maintained. Wheat stands were described as short, with 60 percent in shot blade and 10 percent in head early in July. The condition of rye ranged from fair to good. Continued drought was the chief cause of the deterioration, though heavy damage was also caused by grasshoppers chiefly in central parts of the Province.

Crops also suffered from drought over most of central and northern Alberta. Favorable conditions continue in southern and western section as far north as Red Deer. Moisture conditions are adequate in southern districts of British Columbia. In the Peace River and central areas, however, rain is still needed. Late seeded crops in these areas are said to be spotty. Fall grain is generally good but spring grains are below average in these areas, according to latest reports. Unflooded sections of the Fraser Valley expect good crops. No appraisal of damage done crops in flooded areas is yet available.

Prospects are good for all grain crops in Ontario. The fall wheat crop now ripening is reported excellent. Quebec's grain crops are making satisfactory progress.

FRENCH NORTH AFRICA REPORTS ABOVE-AVERAGE GRAIN CROP

The 1948 grain crop in French North Africa is expected to be slightly above the 1935-39 level for the first time since the beginning of the war, and to exceed the small 1947 production by about 19 percent, according to present estimates. Conditions are variable in the area, with best conditions reported for Algeria. The harvest now nearing completion in that country is reported to be the largest since 1939. Production in both French Morocco and Tunisia is placed at a slightly lower figure than in 1947, and somewhat below average, as well, in Tunisia. Imports of breadgrains will again be required this season for use in Tunisia and French Morocco.

The wheat outturn in Algeria, estimated at about 40 million bushels, is over 40 percent larger than the small 1947 crop. The barley harvest of 39 million bushels is twice last year's small crop and about 20 percent larger than in 1935-39. Above-average yields followed unusually favorable weather conditions. Growers were still handicapped by a shortage of mechanical equipment and fuel. Grain acreage showed some increase over the 1947 acreage though still significantly below the 1935-39 level.

The favorable grain outturn assures the country's requirements for the current season, with some exports expected. Daily bread rations were increased to 300 grams in June. Prior to that change the ration was 250 grams daily.

In French Morocco the wheat crop is estimated at 23 million bushels, or about average. It is, however, about 5 percent less than the good

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		: Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....	7-8	: 99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 80.00:	66.75
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: 71.00:	59.24
Karnak, Good.....	"	: "	: "	: 106.00:	88.44
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: (Not quoted)	
Bombay 1/		: Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	7-7	: 78 1/4 lbs.	: Rupee	: 660.00:	25.40
Broach, Fine.....	"	: "	: "	: 820.00:	31.55
Kampala, East African....	"	: "	: "	: (Not available)	
Karachi 1/		: Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....	7-8	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	: 76.00:	27.87
289F Sind, S.G., Fine.....	"	: "	: "	: 91.00:	33.37
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine...	"	: "	: "	: 109.00:	39.97
Buenos Aires		: Metric ton			
Type B.....	7-8	: 2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: 3,150.00:	2/
Lima		: Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	7-6	: 101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: 241.00:	36.56
Pima, Type 1.....	"	: "	: "	: (Not quoted)	
Recife		: Arroba			
Mata, Type 4.....	7-8	: 33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 170.00:	27.97
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	: "	: " "	: 180.00:	29.61
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: 188.00:	30.93
Torreon		: Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 154.00:	31.24
Houston-Galveston-New					
Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"...	"	: Pound	: Cent	: XXXXXXXX	34.57

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Prices omitted from last week's table: For Bombay, in rupees per candy with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Jarila, Fine 668.00 (25.71), Broach, Fine 850.00 (32.71). For Karachi, in rupees per maund, 4F Punjab, S.G., Fine 72.00 (26.40), 289F Sind, S.G., Fine 88.00 (32.27), 289F Punjab S.G., Fine 106.00 (38.87).

2/ Official exchange rate temporarily not available.

AUSTRALIAN FLAX AREA TO BE INCREASED

The Australian flax acreage planned for 1948 is about 30,000 acres. This is roughly the same as was planned for 1947 but considerably more than the 17,800 acres that actually were planted in that year. Dry weather retarded proper preparation of the soil this year, but rains before the middle of April in the principal flax-growing areas alleviated the condition so that planting began in late April. Most of the planting is done in May, June, and July. Harvest is usually in December.

Acreage increased during the war years from about 2,000 acres in 1939 to 61,000 in 1944, but the area has decreased rapidly during the past 3 years to only 17,800 acres in 1947. As acreage decreased the average yield of straw per acre has increased from 1,030 pounds per acre in 1944 to 2,510 pounds in 1946. Final figures for 1947 are not available, but a good yield is expected because of relatively good weather conditions early in the season.

Victoria is the principal flax-producing province, accounting for 60 to 70 percent of the total crop. Southern Australia ranks second, and Western Australia third. Tasmania ranked second in 1940 and 1941, but dropped to fourth place in 1942 and remained low through 1946. No acreage was reported in Tasmania in 1947 or 1948.

Australia: Flax area and straw production, by provinces
1944 through 1946

Years	Victoria	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Total
1944					
Acres planted	38,500	10,500	8,300	3,800	61,100
Straw produced -					
Total (1,000 lbs.)	38,160	7,420	8,750	9,160	63,490
Pounds per acre	986	694	1,053	2,397	1,030
Growers (number)	936	258	148	234	1,576
1945-					
Acres planted	26,400	5,400	6,300	3,300	41,400
Straw produced-					
Total (1,000 lbs.)	43,950	14,400	9,470	3,050	70,870
Pounds per acre	1,658	2,285	1,770	918	1,702
Growers (number)	a/	a/	a/	a/	1,166
1946-					
Acres planted	12,000	2,700	2,900	800	18,400
Straw produced-					
Total (1,000 lbs.)	31,040	8,980	4,720	1,400	46,150
Pounds per acre	2,531	3,382	1,613	1,814	2,509
Growers (number)	a/	a/	a/	a/	a/
1947 Preliminary-					
Acres planted	12,200	3,500	2,100	0	17,800
Straw produced-					
Total (1,000 lbs.)	42,380	13,230	3,790	0	59,400

Compiled from official records

a/ Not available

Drought in 1944 caused the production to be less than half of that of the preceding year when close to 140 million pounds of straw was harvested, yielding about 5 million pounds of line fiber and 7 million pounds of "scutcher" tow. The 1944 crop of straw yielded about 7 million pounds of line fiber and 13 million pounds of tow. Processing during succeeding years yielded 7 million pounds of line fiber and 14 million pounds of tow in 1945; 6 million and 11 million, respectively, in 1946; and a preliminary estimate of 5 million and 10 million in 1947.

No flax has been imported in recent years. Exports were negligible in prewar years, rose to a peak of 5 million pounds in the year ended June 30, 1945, then decreased somewhat in the following year. Practically all of the exports were sent to the United Kingdom under a wartime purchasing agreement between the two governments.

Local demand is strong at the present time, and domestic spinners consume most of the supply, leaving only a small quantity for export. Marketing control by the Commonwealth Government has been extended through the 1950 crop. Prices are guaranteed to growers, although the Government suffers losses thereby. The present price is £A 7:5:0 per long ton or the equivalent of about \$23.29 per long ton (of 2240 pounds) for Standard Straw, and varies with quality. The maximum obtainable is about \$32.92 per long ton. Low grades under minimum requirements are rejected.

SISAL FIBER IN VENEZUELA

Between 7.5 and 8.0 million pounds of sisal may be produced in Venezuela in 1948, according to estimates by the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture. Approximately 5.5 million pounds were produced in 1946 and 6.5 million in 1947. Present acreage is estimated to be about 10 percent greater than that of last year.

Most of the domestic crop is consumed commercially by two factories producing sacks and rope and by home workers making not only sacks and rope but also hammocks, hats, handbags, shoes, and other miscellaneous articles. Only surplus quantities are exported; consequently, exports of sisal are very small.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS (Continued from page 33)

1947 harvest. The barley outturn placed at about 58 million bushels, shows little change from the 1947 crop, but is moderately above average. The barley acreage was maintained near last year's level. Wheat acreage, however, was reported to be somewhat smaller than a year ago, with declines indicated for both hard and soft wheat acreage. Seeding began very late last fall owing to the late arrival of rains. The reduction in wheat acreage is also attributed, in part, to the relatively low price of grain. Some shift from grain to livestock was reported, as the latter was considered more profitable.

The net position for grain in Morocco indicates a surplus of barley, corn and oats, but a deficit of soft wheat. Supplies of hard wheat are considered adequate for the country's need. Plans call for covering the soft wheat deficit by sending surplus corn, barley, and oats to France in exchange for wheat.

The bread ration has been 200 grams per day for some time, but a proposal to raise it to 250 grams has been considered. Removal of barley from the bread is also proposed. Admixture of as much as 50 percent of barley has been used during the past season.

Production in Tunisia is reported slightly below the low 1947 level despite substantially increased seeding. Shortage of rainfall extending through February reduced prospects materially, but general rains at the end of February relieved the situation somewhat. Excessive rains toward the end of the growing season caused some damage, according to recent reports. Latest estimates place the wheat crop at 9 million bushels, compared with 10 million in 1947 and the 1935-39 average of 15 million. The barley production of 4.5 million bushels is only 50 percent of the average outturn and is slightly less than the small 1947 crop. The low level of breadgrain production points to the continued need for considerable imports of grain to fill the country's requirements.

L A T E N E W S

(Continued from Page 14)

Weather conditions in Denmark through June were not as favorable as in the preceding months. Precipitation in May for the whole country was 35 millimeters (1.4 inches) against a normal 42 (1.7 inches). However, it was unevenly distributed. The islands received considerable rain, while large areas in Jutland received very little. Precipitation in early June and at the end of the month helped, but did not remedy, the situation in Jutland, where pastures have suffered from lack of rain and last year's drought. As a result, Danish milk production started slowly downward after reaching the peak in May. Through June 10, milk production was reported as running about 5 percent below a year earlier.

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The recent ban on cattle imports from Nicaragua to the Republic of Panama until certain cattle vaccination requirements are met, has created a meat shortage in Panama City. To alleviate the scarcity and avoid too sharp price rises, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce has stated that more public market facilities would be made available for the sale of cattle brought to Panama City from the interior of the Republic. A local company also was given permission to import 500 head of cattle from Costa Rica for slaughter and eventual sale to the public. The normal slaughter in Panama City is around 110 to 130 head per day, while present offerings are only about 42 head per day.

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As a result of good weather, Belgium pastures are reported to be lush and green. Hay crop is exceptionally good and is about twice as large as last year. Feed import requirements this coming year is expected to be far less than prewar, as a result of excellent feed crops, reduced animal numbers, and rationalization of feeding practices occasioned by feed shortages under German occupation.

